THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, October 24, 1808.

THE LETTER-BOX.

No. 56.

TO THE EDITOR.

Nos hæc novimus esse nihil.

MARTIAL.

VARIETY (says the old song) is charming; and old songs, like old sayings, are not to be treated with contempt. Under this conviction, instead of *adorning* your Entertainer with two pages and half of my own *sublime lucubrations*, I shall endeavour to amuse your readers by transcribing some anecdotes which I met with in the course of my last week's studies.

Sir Samuel Garth, it is well known, was one of the greatest whigs of Queen Anne's time; and at that period those on his side went great lengths in celebrating the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth by burning the Devil, the pope, and the pretender together. Party business running very high about the end of the queen's reign, a greater procession than ordinary was intended to be brought out on one of those anniversaries. A computation may be loosely made of the excess of party spirit and folly which then prevailed, when the figure of the *Devil* alone cost 1500l. The intended parade of this procession being much talked of, set the tories to work to counterplot the whigs; and getting intelligence where the principal personage (the Devil) was locked up, by way of safety, they hired a mob to break open the door the night before, and steal him. This they effected, to the no small mortification of the whigs, and

the derangement of their intended spectacle. Next day Lord Oxford, a noted tory, meeting Garth in the court of requests, called out to him by way of triumph, "Garth, I am told you have lost your Devil. What is become of him?" "His disciples," answered Garth, "came by night, and stole him away."

Query.—Why, is a gardener the most extraordinary man in the world? Addressed to the countess of ——.

Answer.—Because no man has more business upon *earth*, and he always chooses good *grounds* for what he does. He commands his *thyme*, he is master of his *mint*, and fingers *penny-royal*; he raises his *celery* every year, and it is a bad year indeed that does not bring him in a *plum*. He meets with more *bowls* than a minister of state; he makes more *beds* than the French king, and has in them more *painted ladies*, and genuine *roses* and *lilies* than are to be found at a country wake; he makes *raking* his business more than his diversion, as many other gentlemen do, but makes it an advantage to his health and fortune, as most others do *not*. He can boast of more *rapes* than any other rake in the kingdom. His wife, notwithstanding, has enough of his *lad's love* and *heart's ease*, and never wishes for *weeds*. Distempers, fatal to others, never hurt him; he walks the better for the *gravel*, and thrives most in a *consumption*. He can boast of more *bleeding hearts* than your ladyship, and has more *laurels* than the hero of Trefalgar; but his greatest pride, and the world's greatest envy is, that he can have *yew* when he pleases.

An honest Cambrian having lost his cow, as the most effectuall means of recovering the same, circulated a printed handbill, of which the following is a literal copy:—

"This whas to kiff nottice publick, that Evan Davies wos loosed hur cush out of hur packside at Llandeglo. Hur cush wos have four plack legs and a plack tayl, and was loosed one teeth out of hur mouth, and hur cush was ferry fond to kick peoples who was comed nigh hur. Evan Davies wos thought it ferry ott what wos maked hur cush coe from her packside pecause Evan Davies whos allways kiff her so much met as wos fill hur pelly, which wos make Evan Davies to think that some ferry pad meaning parson whos stoled hur. And who heiffer will pring hur cush pack aken, shall haff so much pread and chese as hur can put in hur pelly, without paying nothing for it. *Got save the king, and hur cush* has only cot one eye."

A physician at Milan, who took care of insane persons, on their being guilty of any irregularity, used to have them placed up to the chin or knees in a stinking pond, according to the degrees of their fault. One of these persons, who had undergone

gone this discipline, and was allowed to walk about the yard, met a gentleman, with his hounds, coming through; he addressed the sportsman: "What are those dogs for?" "To catch hares," replied the gentleman. "And what do they cost you by the year?" "Two hundred pounds, including servants and horses." "And what is the value of the hares you kill in a twelvemonth?" "About forty pounds, or perhaps less," replied the gentleman. "Ride away then as fast as you can," said the madman, "for if the doctor finds you here, he will surely clap you into his pond—not up to the knees, or middle, or chin, but souse over head and ears."

When the Italian poet Dante, absorbed in poetic meditation, was leaning on an altar in a church at Florence, an impertinent visitor broke in upon his reverie. "What is the greatest of all beasts?" says the poet. "An elephant," replied the other. "Then I must beg of you, good Mr. Elephant, to march about your business."

But, on second thoughts, Mr. Editor, that it may not be said there was ever a number of the Letter-Box without a little of originality, I shall pass over several other anecdotes, which now lie on my table, and in their stead present you with a copy of verses, presented by your most obedient to a very beautiful young lady, (to wit,)

To Miss M—— J——n,

On her winning a Tea-kettle at Mr. Bannister's Equestrian Sortilege.

Mary, 'tis no less true than strange,
Some few days since I long'd to change
This form of clay to metal,
That, ceasing from thy charms to rove,
Legless—I might hereafter prove
Thy most devoted kettle.

Nor see I why the world should call
This metamorphose, after all,
So wonderful a matter;
For since I saw thy radiant eyes,
Like scalding *steam* have been my sighs,
My blood—like *boiling water*.

Proud mortals, pondering on the case,
May deem such transformation base,
And brand me as a sinner;

But whatsoe'er the change should be,
It matters not a fig to *me*,
So long as *thou'rt* the *winner*.

X.

IMPORTANT STATE PAPER.

Exposition of the Practices and Machinations which led to the Usurpation of the Crown of Spain, and the Means adopted by the Emperor of the French to carry it into Execution, by Don Pedro Cevallos, First Secretary of State and Dispatches to his Catholic Majesty Ferdinand VII.

AFTER some preliminary observations, he observes, that "the conduct of Spain towards France, since the peace of Basle, has constantly been to preserve friendship and the best understanding with France, and to maintain, at all hazards, the ruinous alliance concluded in 1796.

"To attain this end, there is no sacrifice which Spain has not made; and as the preservation of the prince of the Peace in the high degree of favour he enjoyed with Charles IV. depended in a great measure upon the continuance of this system, it was maintained with the greatest constancy and indefatigable attention. Fleets, armies, treasure, every thing was sacrificed to France; humiliations, submissions, every thing was suffered, every thing was done to satisfy, as far as possible, the insatiable demands of the French Government, but the idea never once occurred of preserving the nation against the machinations of an ally, who was over-running Europe.

After some general observations, he says, that "Bonaparte resolved to excite and foment discord in the royal family of Spain, through his ambassador at this court.

"The latter, though perhaps not initiated in the grand secret of his master, succeeded in seducing the prince of Asturias, our present king and master, and suggested to him the idea of intermarrying with a princess related to the emperor. The affliction which his highness laboured under from a conjunction of circumstances, as lamentable as notorious, and his anxiety to avoid another connection into which it was attempted to force him, with a lady selected for him by his greatest enemy, and on that account alone the object of his aversion, induced him to acquiesce in the suggestions of the ambassador, but with the stipulation that it was to meet with the approbation of his august parents, and under the impression that it would strengthen the friendship and alliance then subsisting between the two crowns. His highness, actuated by motives so cogent in a political

litical point of view, and yielding to the solicitations of the ambassador, wrote accordingly to his imperial majesty.

" A few days after our beloved prince wrote this letter, occurred the scandalous imprisonment of his august person in the royal monastery of St. Laurence, and the still more scandalous decree which was issued in the name of the king, and addressed to the council of Castile. There are very strong reasons to believe, that the unknown hand that frustrated this feigned conspiracy was some French agent employed to forward the plan which Napoleon had formed.

" Fortunately the Spanish nation was deeply impressed with its situation, entertained a just opinion of the good disposition and religious principles of their prince of the Asturias, and suspected instantaneously that the whole was a calumny fabricated by the favourite, as absurd as it was audacious, in order to remove the only obstacles which then opposed his views.

" It is already known, that on the imprisonment of the prince of Asturias, his royal father wrote to the emperor, no doubt, at the suggestion of the favourite, complaining of the conduct of the ambassador Beauharnois, in his clandestine communications with the prince of Asturias, and expressing his surprise that the emperor had not come to a previous understanding with his majesty on a subject of such pre-eminent importance to sovereigns.

" As the imprisonment of the prince of Asturias, and, above all, the most scandalous decree fulminated against his royal person, produced an effect completely contrary to the expectations of the favourite, he began to be afraid, thought proper to recede, and to mediate a reconciliation between the royal parents and their son. With this view, as is stated in the abstract of the Escurial cause, circulated by the council in consequence of his majesty's orders of the 8th of April, he forged certain letters, and made the prince of Asturias sign them while a prisoner, which being delivered into the hands of the royal parents, were supposed to have softened their hearts; and by these singular means did this innocent prince obtain a nominal liberty.

" This was the state of affairs when a French courier arrived at the royal palace of St. Laurence, with a treaty concluded and signed at Fontainbleau on the 27th of October, by Don Eugenio Isquierdo, as plenipotentary of his catholic majesty, and Marshal Duroc, in the name of the emperor of the French. Its contents, as well as those of the separate convention, constitute Nos. 1, 2, of the documents annexed to this exposition.

" The result of this treaty was to render the emperor master of Portugal with very little expense; to furnish him with a plausible pretext for introducting his armies into our peninsula, with

with the intent of subjugating it at a proper opportunity, and to put him in immediate possession of Tuscany.

" The favourite was to have for his portion the Algarves and Alentejo, in full property and sovereignty, but the emperor's answer to the letters of the royal father had not yet arrived; it was completely uncertain what it would be, and this filled him with fear and anxiety.

" The intimate relations which the favourite maintained at that period with the grand duke of Berg, through the medium of Isquierdo, flattered him to a certain degree with the hope that every thing would be settled to his wishes, though the interposition of a few millions might be necessary. But neither the favourite nor his confident knew the real intentions of the person they were treating with at Paris. In fact, the instant the emperor found that the favourite had committed himself, and the royal parents were brought into discredit, he shewed no disposition to answer his majesty's letters, for the purpose of keeping them in suspence, and inspiring them with dread, in the hope that they might form the resolution of withdrawing, though at that time he had not completed his plan for taking an advantage of such an occurrence.

" The grand duke wrote to the favourite, that he would employ every means to support him, but that the negociation was rendered very delicate, owing to the extraordinary attachment which prevailed in Spain towards the prince of Asturias, and the consideration due towards a princess who was cousin to the empress, and in consequence of the part the ambassador Beauharnois, her relative, took in the business.

" Now it was that the favourite began clearly to discover how much his credit had sunk, and he gave himself up for lost, in consequence of being deprived of the support of his imaginary protector, the emperor of the French. There were no means now neglected by him to endeavour to ingratiate himself with the grand duke of Berg; every sort of expression, every kind of deference, was employed for this purpose; and the more effectually to avert the impending storm, he prevailed on the royal parents to write to the emperor direct, and to request his consent to the marriage of one of his cousins to the prince of Asturias.

" Meanwhile the emperor of the French appeared to be very much dissatisfied with the conduct of Isquierdo, and kept him at a distance, in order to cut off this direct mode of communication, and to make himself more impenetrable.

" His imperial majesty set off on a journey to Italy with that studied parade which all Europe has witnessed, giving it such an air of importance, that it was presumed he was going to fix the destinies of the world. But there is reason to surmise, that his real object was no other than to divert the general attention

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to that quarter, for the purpose of misleading the other states, whilst his real designs were directed to the invasion of Portugal and Spain.

"This artifice and dissimulation did not, however, prevent the discovery of one of the articles in the secret treaty of Fontainbleau, by his expelling, with the greatest precipitation, from Tuscany, the queen regent and her children, and plundering the royal palace, and seizing all the public funds of a court that was ignorant of the existence of such a treaty, and had committed no act of forfeiture.

"Whilst the emperor kept Europe in suspense by his journey to Milan and Venice, he thought fit to answer the letters, which he had some time before received from the royal father, assuring his majesty, that he never had the slightest information of the circumstances which he communicated respecting his son the prince of Asturias, nor ever received any letter from his royal highness. Nevertheless his majesty consented to the proposed intermarriage with a princess of his family, undoubtedly with an intention of amusing the royal parents; whilst he was sending into Spain, under various pretexts, all the troops which he had then disposable, and was studiously propagating an idea that he was favourable to the cause of the prince of Asturias, and thus endeavouring to captivate the good opinion of the Spanish nation.

"The royal parents, struck with the terror this conduct of the emperor naturally inspired, and the favourite being still more astonished, opposed no obstacle to the entrance of the French troops into the peninsula; on the contrary, they gave the most effectual orders that they should be received and treated even on a better footing than the Spanish troops.

"The emperor, under the pretence of consulting the security of these troops, ordered his generals, by stratagem or force to get possession of the fortresses of Pampeluna, St. Sebastian, Figueras, and Barcelona, which alone could present any obstacle to an invasion. They were accordingly taken by fraud and surprise, to the indignation and sorrow of the whole nation, to which the French still affected to profess friendship and alliance.

"The emperor, conceiving himself already master of all Spain, and thinking the time had arrived for accelerating his measures, thought proper to write a letter to the royal father, complaining, in the bitterest terms, that his majesty had not renewed his application for an imperial princess for his son the prince of Asturias. The king was pleased to return for answer, that he adhered to his former proposal, and was willing that the marriage should immediately take place.

"Some important proceeding was still necessary to carry the project to a proper degree of maturity, and the emperor,

not willing to trust it to writing, thought he could not find a better instrument than Don Eugenio Isquierdo, whom he had detained in Paris in a state of great dejection and terror, that had been artfully impressed upon him for the purpose of his more effectually executing his commission, by impressing the royal parents and the favourite with the same feelings.

"In this state of things, the emperor ordered Isquierdo to repair to Spain, which he accordingly did, in a very precipitate and mysterious manner. According to his verbal statements, he brought no proposal in writing with him, nor was he to receive any, and he had orders to remain only three days.

"On his arrival, under these circumstances, at Aranjuez, the favourite conducted him to the presence of the royal parents, and their conferences were conducted with so much secresy, that it was impossible for any one to discover the object of his mission; but soon after his departure from this capital, their majesties began to shew a disposition to abandon the metropolis and the peninsula, and to emigrate to Mexico.

"The recent example of the determination taken by the royal family of Portugal, seemed to have fully corresponded with the views of the emperor, and there is reason to think that his imperial majesty promised himself a similar success in Spain."

Next follow some observations on the circumstances we already know, relative to the attempt at emigration.

"Scarcely had this tempestuous scene taken place, when the royal parents, finding themselves deprived of the support of their favourite, took the unexpected but voluntary resolution which they had for some time entertained, to abdicate the throne, as they accordingly did, in favour of their son and heir, the prince of Asturias.

"The emperor, ignorant of this sudden event, and perhaps never supposing that the Spaniards were capable of displaying such resolution, had ordered Prince Murat to advance with his army towards Madrid, under the idea that the royal family were already on the coast, and on the point of embarking, and that far from meeting the slightest obstacle on the part of the people, all of them would receive him with open arms, as their deliverer and guardian angel. He conceived that the nation was in the highest degree dissatisfied with their government, and never reflected that they were only dissatisfied with the abuses which had crept into the administration of it."

The circumstances are next related which preceded the arrival of the grand duke of Berg at Madrid, at the head of his troops.

"He was no sooner acquainted with the state of affairs, than he began to sow discord. He spoke in a mysterious manner of the abdication of the crown, executed by the royal

father in favour of his son, amidst the tumults of Aranjuez, and gave it to be understood, that until the emperor had acknowledged Ferdinand VII. it was impossible for him to take any step that should appear like an acknowledgement, and that he must be under the necessity of treating only with the royal father.

"This pretext did not fail to produce the effect which the grand duke intended. The royal parents, the moment they were informed of this circumstance, availed themselves of it to save the favourite, who remained in confinement, and in whose favour Prince Murat professed to take an interest, for the sole purpose of flattering their majesties, mortifying Ferdinand VII. and sowing fresh matter of discord between the parents and the son."

The attempts are next detailed to get the royal family out of Spain, on the pretext of meeting Bonaparte.

"At Vittoria his majesty received information that the emperor arrived at Bourdeaux, and was on his way to Bayonne In consequence of this advice, the Infant Don Carlos, who had been waiting at Tolosa, proceeded on to Bayonne, whither he had been invited by the emperor, who, however, delayed his arrival some days longer.

"Nothing particular occurred at Vittoria, except that the supreme junta of government at Madrid having written that the grand duke of Berg had imperiously demanded that the favourite should be released and placed in his hands, his majesty did not think proper to comply with this demand; and in communicating this determination to the junta of government, enjoined them to enter into no explanations with the grand duke respecting the fate of the prisoner.

"In the mean time General Savary concerted with the emperor in what manner they should prepare to give the finishing blow; and while the French troops in the vicinity of Vittoria were making suspicious movements, he made his appearance in that city, with a letter to his majesty from the emperor.

"To the contents of this letter, which were neither flattering nor decorous, General Savary added so many and such vehement protestations of the interest which the emperor took in the welfare of his majesty, and of Spain, that he even went so far as to say, 'I will suffer my head to be cut off, if within a quarter of an hour of your majesty's arrival at Bayonne, the emperor shall not have recognised you as king of Spain and the Indies. To support his own consistency, he will, probably, begin by giving you the title of highness, but in five minutes he will give you that of majesty, and in three days every thing will be settled, and your majesty may return to Spain immediately."

After the detail of some further circumstances, he comes to the interview between the king and Napoleon.

" His imperial majesty arrived, accompanied by a number of his generals. The king went down to the street-door to receive him, and both monarchs embraced each other with every token of friendship and affection. The emperor staid but a short time with his majesty, and they embraced each other again at parting.

" Soon after Marshal Duroc came to invite the king to dine with his imperial majesty, whose carriages were coming to convey his majesty to the palace of Marac; this accordingly took place. The emperor came as far as the coach steps to receive his majesty, embraced him again, and led him by the hand to the apartment provided for him.

" The king had no sooner returned to his residence, when General Savary waited on his majesty to inform him that the emperor had irrevocably determined that the Bourbon dynasty should no longer reign in Spain; that it should be succeeded by his; and therefore his imperial majesty required that the king should, in his own name and that of all his family, renounce the crown of Spain and the Indies, in favour of the dynasty of Bonaparte.

" It would be difficult to describe the surprise with which the royal mind of his majesty was affected, and the consternation with which all those who were nearest to his person were struck at hearing of such a proposition. His majesty was not yet recovered from the fatigues of a toilsome journey, when the same man who had made him so many protestations of security at Madrid and on the road, who had drawn him from his capital and his kingdom to Bayonne, on pretence of adjusting matters of the greatest importance to both states, and of his being recognised by his imperial majesty, had the audacity to be the bearer of so scandalous a proposal.

" On the following day, I was sent for by the emperor to his royal palace, where I found the minister of foreign affairs, M. Champagny, waiting to enter upon a discussion of the proposals verbally stated by General Savary. I instantly complained of the perfidy with which so important an affair was proceeded in; representing that the king, my master, came to Bayonne, relying on the assurances given by General Savary, in the name of the emperor, and in the presence of the dukes del Infantado, S. Carlos, D. Juan Escoiquiz, and myself, that his imperial majesty would recognize him at the very first interview between the two sovereigns, in the imperial palace of Marac; that when his majesty expected to witness the realization of this promised recognition, he was surprised with the propositions above alluded to; and that his majesty had authorised me to protest against the violence done to his person,

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in not permitting him to return to Spain; and as a categorica and final answer to the solicitation of the emperor, that the king neither would nor could renounce his crown in favour of another dynasty, without being wanting in the duties which he owed to his subjects and to his own character; that he could not do so in prejudice to the individuals of his own family, who were called to the succession by the fundamental laws of the kingdom; and much less could he consent to the establishment of another dynasty, which ought alone to be called to the throne by the Spanish nation, in virtue of their original right to elect another family upon the termination of the present dynasty.

"The minister of foreign affairs insisted on the necessity of the renunciation which had been proposed, and contended, that the abdication signed by Charles IV. on the 19th of March, had not been voluntary.

"I expressed my surprise that the king should be importuned to renounce his crown, at the same moment that it was asserted that the renunciation of his father was not his free act. I wished, however, not to be understood as entering into such a discussion, as I could not acknowledge the smallest authority in the emperor to intermeddle with matters which were purely domestic, and peculiarly belonging to the Spanish government; following in this respect the example of the cabinet of Paris, when it rejected, as inadmissible, the applications of his majesty, the royal father, in favour of his ally and first cousin, the unfortunate Louis XVI.

"Nevertheless, desirous of giving to truth and innocence a testimony which they alone had a right to exact, I added, that three weeks before the disturbance at Aranjeuz, Charles IV. in my presence, and that of all the other ministers of state, addressed her majesty the queen, in these words: 'Maria Louisa, we will retire to one of the provinces, where we will pass our days in tranquillity; and Ferdinand, who is a young man, will take upon himself the burden of the government.

"I concluded with proving to him that the renunciation of the royal father was only the consequence of his majesty's predeliction for the tranquillity of a private life, and his persuasion that his constitution, enfeebled by age and habitual indisposition, was incompetent to support the heavy burden of the government.

"This irrelevant objection having been got rid of, M. Champagny stated, that the emperor could never be sure of Spain, in case of a new war with the powers of the north, while the Spanish nation continued to be governed by a dynasty, who must regret to see its elder branch expelled from the monarchy of France.

" I answered, that in a regular system of things, such prepossessions never prevailed over the interests of states, and that the political conduct of Charles IV. since the treaty of Basle, afforded a recent proof that sovereigns paid little regard to family interests, when they were in opposition to the interests of their dominions; that the friendship betweeu Spain and France was founded in local and political considerations; that the topographical situation of the two kingdoms was of istelf sufficient to demonstrate how important it was for Spain to preserve a good understanding with France, the only state on the continent of Europe with which she had direct and very extensive relations, and consequently that every reason of policy induced Spain to maintain a perpetual peace with France.

(To be continued.)

ALEXANDRIAN MUSEUM.

[From Dr. Gillies's History of the World.]

THE establishment of the Alexandrian library was accompanied by an institution still more memorable, because then single in its kind. In various cities of Greece, there were temples in honour of the muses, thence called museia, where these beneficent daughters of memory were worshipped by hymns and sacrifices. But the museum raised by Ptolemy bore a peculiar reference to the intellectual character of those goddesses; and was dedicated to the advancement of science, to the culture of taste, and to improvement in all those liberal studies from which the civilized portion of mankind derive their best helps in business, and more than half their enjoyments in leisure. Not priests, but scholars of various denominations were its inhabitants; who, being admitted into it through the approved merit of their labours, subsisted by the king's bounty at common tables, where men of different pursuits but congenial minds enjoyed mutual opportunities for enlarging their attainments.

Under the latter Ptolemies, the museum indeed had a priest for a president, in compliance with the customs of the Egyptians, among whom all offices of dignity were confined to the sacerdotal cast. But it appears not that either the founder of this institution or his immediate successors respected in this particular the usages of their subjects; and it should seem that the museum is the first establishment in history destined to the promotion of learning and science, independently of state policy and the popular superstition which upheld it. Strabo says that the museum (which stood single in the world) was a com-

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mon Egyptian table, to which the luminaries of the whole world were invited.

N. B. At this time no public museum of natural history exists in this kingdom. Some valuable rarities are in the British Museum. But the zoological specimens are few, and are unarranged, and there is no fund to replace them when decayed.

LONDON PRISONS.

THE following description is given of them in Donald Lupton's Characters of London, 1632:

" *Ludgate and Counters.*

" Ile joyne all these together, because their natures are not much diferent, some of the officers make the places worse then they would be, if a man cannot by monies or good security pay his debts, yet hee may lye for them here; the prisoners are like apprentices, desire hartily to bee freemen; certainly, they have been men of great credite, for they have been much trusted; they hate three persons, an extream creditor, a cunning lawyer, and a biting serjeant; these three are all fishers, the creditor ownes the net, the lawyer places and spreads it, the serjeant hals and drawes it to a purse; the serjeant seems to be most of trust, for hee hath the whole businesse put into his hands, and if he can, concludes it: the lawyer next to him, for hee is trusted with the bonds: the creditor himself is of least note, for hee will not be seene in his own businesse; yet the creditor is lord of the game, the lawyer is his hunsman, the yeoman his beagle, and the debtor is the wild hare. If he bee taken, most commonly hee is tamed in one of these meuses. A serjeant is worst when most implored, and a lawyer when most trusted; the creditor when without pity, and the debtor when prodigality and ill courses have procured this cage. The attourney and serjeant may be termed hangmen, they procure and serve so many executions. These places are fullest when men break their bonds, and make forfeitures; they may bee called dens, the serjeants lions, and the debtor the prey." Ludgate " is an ancient gate, yet not affected by citizens though a closet for safety. For the counters, they teach wanddring nightingals the way unto their nests, and learne them to sing the counter-tenor. The counters seeme very courteous, for they will open almost at any houre in the night, they would not have men lye in the streets; wel, they are places that are too full, the more pitty that men eyther have not better estates, consciences,

consciences, or manners, to pay their debts, and live uprightly and orderly."

ODD ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

ON looking over some old newspapers one evening, for amusement, the following struck me as likely to entertain some of your numerous readers who may not have seen them.

I am,
Your humble servant,
J. M.

From the Daily Advertiser, April 13, 1759.

"A middle-aged maiden lady, with an independent fortune, has been determined by the cruel treatment of those who from their connections ought to have been her friends, to think of entering into the honourable state of matrimony. She is indifferent as to fortune, so she meets with a gentleman of good morals and family; indeed, she would rather wish to marry a person without any fortune, that the gentleman may have the higher obligations to her, and of consequence treat her with that tenderness and regard reasonably to be expected from persons under such circumstances. Her reason for taking this method, is, that it has been industriously given out, by people interested, (in order she supposes to prevent proposals) that she had determined never to marry.

"Letters, with proposals, will be received at the bar of the Smyrna coffee-house, directed for Z. Z. A description of the gentleman's person, age, and profession, is requested to be inserted, and how to direct, if the proposals are approved of. The lady's conduct will bear the strictest scrutiny. No letters received unless post-paid, to prevent impertinence."

From the same, April 17.

"Whereas I had long despaired of meeting with a temptation to enter into the holy state of matrimony, 'till taking up the paper of Friday last, I read the agreeable advertisement of a lady whose sentiments jump so entirely with mine, I am convinced we are cut out for each other, and therefore take this method of describing myself. I am a gentleman of unexceptionable good family; losses and crosses have reduced my fortune to my wardrobe, a diamond ring, a gold watch, and an

amber-headed cane; but as you have generously said you, don't even wish a fortune, I imagine this will be no hindrance; my person is far from disagreeable, my skin smooth and shining, my forehead high and polished, my eyes sharp though small, my nose long and aquiline, my mouth wide, and what teeth I have perfectly sound; all this, with the addition of a flaxen full bottom, suitable to the age of between forty and fifty, with a good heart and sweet disposition, and not one unruly particle, compose the man who will be willing, upon the slightest intimation, to pay his devoirs to the lady. If she will direct her letter for S. U. to be left at St. James's coffee-house, the gentleman will wait on her wherever she pleases to appoint him."

The following extraordinary Advertisement appeared in the Public Advertiser for the same Year.

"To be sold, a fine grey mare, full fifteen hands high, gone after the hounds many times, rising six years and no more, moves as well as most creatures upon earth, as good a road mare as any in ten counties, and ten to that, trots at a confounded pace, is from the country, and her owner will sell her for nine guineas; if some folks had her she would fetch near three times the money. I have no acquaintance, and money I want; and a service in a shop to carry parcels, or to be in a gentleman's service. My father gave me the mare to get rid of me, and to try my fortune in London, and am just come from Shropshire, and I can be recommended, as I suppose nobody takes servants without, and can have a voucher for my mare. Enquire for me at the Talbot Inn, near the New-Church, in the Strand."

ABSTINENCE FROM FOOD.

OF an extraordinary case of abstinence from food, the Staffordshire Advertiser speaks thus:

"It is not upon light authority that we should choose to give insertion to the following case. Supported, however, as we are by the credence of the most respectable gentlemen of the faculty, who are desirous to draw the attention of the profession to further enquiry on the subject, we proceed to detail the following particulars, which are formed from the different communications of medical men.

"Ann Moor, a poor woman of Tutbury, in this county, has lived upwards of 14 months without food! The testimony of the woman herself was of course discredited, and she consented to be removed to a neighbour's house, to be watched for any length

length of time that was deemed sufficient to give a colour of truth to her report. This was accordingly done, and she was constantly watched for 17 days and nights, and regularly visited by three surgeons once or twice a day. 'Till the end of 14 days she did not even drink any water, which she had been accustomed to do in very small quantities when she felt a nausea at her stomach. She now finds that this is removed by wetting her tongue with damp cloth, by which she escapes the pain of swallowing as before, which was very considerable. During the length of time of the above 14 months abstinence, water, and tea, without either milk or sugar, had been her only beverage. She has been in bed the whole of the time. Her pulse is very little under the standard of good health, but, as may be expected, her frame is excessively reduced.

"As this extraordinary woman is still living, we recommend her case to the attention of the faculty, and doubt not that they will consider her as a subject deserving of very minute consideration."

AN ANECDOTE.

IT is a singular circumstance, and not historically known, that Oliver Cromwell had, at an early period of his life, a bloody quarrel with that prince, whom he afterwards, at the head of the republican party, caused to be beheaded on the scaffold.

The occasion of the quarrel was this: about three years after the accession of King James the Sixth to the throne of England, the earl of Mar, who had the charge of his majesty's second son, Charles Duke of Albany, at the palace of Dunfermline, Scotland, received a commission to bring his royal pupil to London, and, on his way thither, to pass some days at Huntingdon, at the house of Richard Oliver, the father of the famous Oliver, and who was married to a daughter of Sir Richard Stuart of Ely, whose ancestor sprung from the royal family of Scotland, in the reign of Robert III. It is observable, that on account of this relationship, King James himself also spent two days at Richard Cromwell's house, on his way from Scotland.

In compliance with his instructions, the earl of Mar, and his young royal charge, did pass several days at Huntingdon, during which Charles and Oliver, who were nearly of the same age, had several skirmishes. Walking one day in the garden, their differences rose so high, that a boxing match ensued; the consequence was, that Charles was worsted, and retired from the scene of battle with a bloody nose. Oliver being severely corrected for the daring act he had committed, indignantly

said, " I hope yet to knock the head of the Scottish dog off, instead of giving him a bloody nose."

MASTERS AND SERVANTS.

A Case of material importance was heard at Union Hall, in Surrey, on the 26th of August, 1808, in which Mr. Collinge, an eminent mechanist at Lambeth, was the plaintiff, and Louis Potier the defendant. It appeared that Potier was under articles to Mr. Collinge to serve him in the patent axle manufactory for five years, two years of which were unexpired; and that the said Potier having left his service, and gone to work for another master, Mr. Collinge came before the magistrates to complain of such desertion, and to reclaim his services under the terms in the articles.

The point on which the whole turned was shortly this—If a person, a minor, makes a contract to serve up to a period after he attains majority, can he, on attaining full age, vacate that contract at his pleasure? To prove the affirmative of this several cases were cited; and the learned magistrates, who heard the case with great attention, said, that Potier, who was proved to be twenty-two years of age, was free, however hard it might be on the master, who had a beneficial interest in his service. The law was imperative on the point, and he must, therefore, be discharged.

GREENLAND FEAST.

THE following is a bill of fare of an entertainment given by some principal Greenlanders to a factor: 1. Dried herrings. 2. Dried sea-fish. 3. Boiled ditto. 4. Mimiak, a favourite dish, composed of half raw and rotten fish. 5. Boiled willocks. 6. A piece of rotten whale's tail. This was the *bon-bouche*, the haunch of venison to which the guests were principally invited. 7. Dried salmon. 8. Dried rein-deer. 9. A desert of crowberries, mixed with the chile from the maw of a rein-deer. The same elegant confection enriched with train-oil.

A QUESTION, *by R. Loosemore, of Tiverton.*

IF the diameter of a cylinder be 18.5 inches, and the length 12 feet: Required the solid and superficial content of the same? And how much in length must be cut off to make a solid foot?

Answer, by J. Trood, of Bridgewater, to R. Trewavas's Charade, inserted the 15th of August.

THE OYSTER-WENCH much toil doth oft endure,
By it a scanty living to procure.

† Similar answers have been received from S. Duck, and Frederic Arden, of South Petherton; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; J. Saunders, of Exeter; J. Melhuish, and W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. W. of Charmouth; J. Woodman, of North Curry; and H. Easter, of Poole.

Answer, by J. Saunders, of Exeter, to J. A. Dyer's Rebus, inserted August 29.

A House a wretched dwelling-place would be
If in it FURNITURE we did not see.

☞ We have received the like answer from W. Petherick, of St. Austell; F. Arden, and S. Duck, of South Petherton; Mary Davis, J. Trood, and W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. Treadwin, Exeter; T. P. of Chard; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; J. W. of Charmouth; W. N. of Sidmouth; D. H. of Hinton St. George; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; C. Crews, of Newton Abbot; J. Ball, J. French, and J. Patten, of Evershot-school; R. Withall, Plymouth; H. Easter, Poole; J. Vellenoweth, near Helston; and Philomath, of Knacker's-hole.

A CHARADE, *by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton.*

A Numeral will bring my first to mind;
My second is a tree;
When these two parts you rightly have combin'd,
My whole you soon will see:
Without my whole, throughout the land,
All commerce would be at a stand.

A REBUS, *by T. K. of Chard.*

MY first directs the gallant seaman o'er
The foaming ocean to a distant shore;
Then for my last a furious beast you'll name,
Omitting the first letter of the same:
These simple parts combin'd you'll see
What should reside in you and me.

An ENIGMA, *by J. Melhuish, of Bridgewater.*

I'M patient, lovely, gentle, and benign,
Gracious to man, an attribute divine!
A chearful welcome, and a constant guest
Within the true believer's pious breast;

For when old age brings on his latter end,
I am his chiefest solace, greatest friend;
From me he gathers fortitude to die,
And strength of mind to meet his judge on high.

The sailor long of winds and waves the sport,
Still trusts in me to reach his destin'd port;
I spur the lover on, and lend my aid
To gain his charming, captivating maid.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

THE EVENING WALK.

LINES WRITTEN IN KENT, IN 1805.

I Love, as closes in the day, to roam
Where stretch the vales, or where the uplands swell,
Dress'd in the ever-changeful robe of spring.
How sweet at eve to breathe the breeze; to wind
Along the unfrequented glen; to mark
The wand'ring streamlet as it ever rolls
Its solitary music; and from far
Haply to hear (how chearing to the swain!)
The village bells peal merrily. Anon
Some charming vista opens; from some stand,
Untrod before, the living landscape pours,
Or wildly rural, or sublimely grand,
Its infinite of prospect. O'er the mind
A pleasing languour steals, as sets the sun,
Gleaming the wood-crown'd summit, and the lays
Of sober even quiver in the air,
Or thrill among the groves. If MORNING bid
Nature, reviving from her rest, to bless
The woodland choirs with stronger song—pale EVE
Has yet her dying and bewitching strains;
A magic power is her's; a nameless charm,
And many a rich repast, she gives to him
Who loves amid her fairy reign to rove.

N. CARRINGTON.

Plymouth-Dock.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ADDRESS TO AN OWL,

On hearing a Poet complain of the Noise which it made, on a Night when he was composing Verses, which disturbed him so much that he could not proceed.

HAIL thou nocturnal visitant!
Of yonder ivy'd tower,
Thy inharmonious voice is heard
In midnight's silent hour.

When Cynthia over yonder hill
Her silv'ry radiance throws,
Whose beams alight to kiss the rill
That 'neath its summit flows.

Oft as the traveller rides along
Amid the shades of night,
The noise of thy incessant tongue
May fill him with affright.

But

But why should inconsistent man
Abhor an harmless owl?
For he who made thee, made the swan,
And ev'ry other fowl.

Thou lov'st to shun the noise of day,
And seek the silent shade;
E'en now, methinks! I hear thee say,
"I hate the vain parade."

"The place where contemplation dwells
Forms a retreat for me;
Enchanting scenes! whose magic spells
Are seldom felt by thee."

But Oh beware! avoid the place
Where garretteers reside;
And do not let thy presence grace
The skilful scribbling tribe.

When thoughts, perhaps, within their brain
Are hatching by the taper,
Lest thou shouldst spoil the merry strain
Ere it appears on paper.

No, never let thy voice molest
The poet's pericanium,
For if thou dost they will detest
Thy name, and who can blame them?

R. LOOSEMORE.

Tiverton, October, 1808.

THE MOTHER TO HER CHILD.

WELCOME, thou little dimpled stranger,
Oh! welcome to my fond embrace;
Thou sweet reward of pain and danger,
Still let me press thy cherub face.

Dear source of many a mingled feeling,
How did I dread, yet wish thee here!
While hope and fear, in turns prevailing,
Serv'd but to render thee more dear.

How glow'd my heart with exultation,
So late the anxious seat of care,
When first thy voice of supplication
Stole sweetly on thy mother's ear!

What words could speak the bright emotion
That sparkl'd in thy father's eye,
When to his fond, paternal bosom
He proudly press'd his darling boy!

Oh! that thou may'st, dear babe, inherit
Each virtue to his heart most dear;
His manly grace, his matchless merit,
Is still thy doating mother's prayer.

While on thy downy couch reposing,
To watch thee is my tender toil;
I mark thy sweet blue eyes unclosing,
I fondly hail thy cherub smile.

Smile on, sweet babe, unknown to sorrow,
Still brightly beam thy heavenly eye;
And may the dawn of every morrow
Shed blessings on my darling boy!